

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /072 W
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P R 300935Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 375

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USUN 1557

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3874

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KS

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREANS FORCE POSTPONEMENT OF SNCC MEETING

REF: A. SEOUL 1894 (NOTAL) B. SEOUL 8077 (DEC. 4, 1974)

1. NORTH KOREAN DEPUTY CO-CHAIRMAN OF SOUTH-NORTH COORDINATING COMMITTEE (SNCC) CHO MYONG-IL SENT HOT LINE MESSAGE TO SOUTH MAY 29 UNILATERALLY POSTPONING MAY 30 DEPUTY CO-CHAIRMEN'S MEETING "FOR THE TIME BEING". ACCORDING TO PYONGYANG RADIO, CHO CITED "RECENT PROVOCATIVE AND FRANTIC ANTICOMMUNIST CAMPAIGN" IN SOUTH AS GROUNDS FOR NORTH'S ACTION. REPORT SAID "HE EXPECTED THE DANGEROUS AND PROVOCATIVE DIN TO CEASE IMMEDIATELY, AN ATMOSPHERE FOR DIALOGUE TO RESUME, AND CONTACT BETWEEN SNCC VICE CHAIRMEN TO BE RESUMED IN JULY."

2. SOUTH DEPUTY CO-CHAIRMAN CHANG KI-YONG MADE HOT LINE REPLY MAY 29, URGING NORTH TO HOLD ELEVENTH MEETING AS SCHEDULED. CHO RESPONDED WITH SECOND MESSAGE ACCUSING SOUTH OF PROVOCATIVE ATTITUDE WHICH "CANNOT BUT MAKE US DOUBT SOUTH KOREAN SIDE'S INTENTION TO CARRY ON THE DIALOGUE." CHO ALSO SAID NORTH WOULD NOT
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APPEAR FOR MEETING MAY 30.

3. MEETING WAS NOT HELD MAY 30. INSTEAD, SOUTH SIDE ISSUED STATEMENT OUTLINING HOT LINE EXCHANGE AND CALLING FOR NORTH TO APOLOGIZE FOR BOYCOTTING THE MEETING. SOUTH SPOKESMAN SAID THAT "POSTPONEMENT AT THIS TIME DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN SUSPENSION OF DIALOGUE AND QUESTION OF WHEN DIALOGUE WILL RESUME DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON ATTITUDE OF THE PYONGYANG SIDE."

4. COMMENT: MAY 30 DATE FOR ELEVENTH MEETING HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY NORTH (REF A), WHICH GAVE NO PRIOR INDICATION THAT IT OPPOSED HOLDING THE SESSION. ONE EXPLANATION FOR NORTH'S ACTION IS FOREIGN TRAVEL OF KIM IL-SUNG, AND POSSIBLE DESIRE NOT TO APPEAR TO BE DEALING WITH ROK WHILE KIM EXPOUNDING ON ROK'S PERFDY.

5. THIS IS ALSO SECOND TIME WITHIN SIX MONTHS THAT NORTH HAS POSTPONED SNCC SESSION. ON LAST OCCASION (REF B), PYONGYANG SOUGHT TO MANEUVER SEOUL INTO DOWNGRADING THE SNCC CONTACTS BUT WAS FINALLY OBLIGED TO RESCHEDULE MEETING, PROBABLY TO AVOID CHARGE OF ENDING DIALOGUE. IN PRESENT CASE, NORTH HAS NOT BOTHERED TO CONSTRUCT NEW CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUING MEETINGS, AS BEFORE, BUT HAS FALLEN BACK ON GENERAL CRITICISM OF SOUTH'S ANTI-COMMUNISM. THIS, PLUS PYONGYANG'S ASSERTION THAT ATMOSPHERE WILL BE BACK TO NORMAL BY JULY, INDICATE NORTH'S OBJECTIVE AT THIS POINT IS POSTPONEMENT RATHER THAN INDEFINITE SUSPENSION OF THE MEETINGS.
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